

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00990 221201Z

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ACTION OPIC-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 SSO-00 /034 W

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O 221150Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 178

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0990

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ZA

SUBJECT: TAW

REF: STATE 106161, ABIDJAN 3989

1. WE ARE SOMEWHAT HESITANT TO CONCUR IN VISIT TO LUSAKA OF PIC EXEC VICE PRESIDENT DAVID GREGG AT PRESENT WHEN TOM WOOD ENGAGED IN CRITICAL STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GRZ. EMBASSY HAS DELIBERATELY STAYED CLEAR OF WOOD DURING HIS PRESENT AND LAST VISITS SO AS TO GIVE AMERICAN FIRM FREEST POSSIBLE REIN TO CONDUCT ITS OWN PRIVATE BUSINESS WITH GRZ AND NOT RPT NOT CREATE IMPRESSION -- WHICH WOOD HIMSELF TRYING TO AVOID -- THAT TAW NEEDS OFFICIAL US UMBRELLA TO WALK TIGHTROPE HE IS NOW ON.

2. HE HAS CONFIDED THAT HE SAW PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON HIS LAST VISIT BUT IS RELUCTANT TO DIVULGE WHERE NEGOTIATIONS NOW STAND BUT WOOD GIVES IMPRESSION OUTLOOK HOPEFUL. WOOD HAS MENTIONED THAT MANY ZAMBIANS FEEL TAW IS NOT RPT NOT REALLY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE BUT CLOSELY TIED IN WITH USG. OUR TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT IS THAT GREGG VISIT AT THIS TIME FOR SOLE PURPOSE DISCUSSION TAW CONTRACT COULD ONLY SOLIDIFY THIS MISTAKEN IMPRESSION.

3. UNDERSTAND WOOD MAY BE RETURNING TO ABIDJAN THIS WEEK FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. WOOD'S TRIP TO ABIDJAN COULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETING THERE WITH GREGG AND UPDATING OPIC APPRECIATION
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OF STATE OF PLAY HERE.

4. WILL PROVIDE DEFINITIVE OPINION ON ADVISABILITY GREGG
VISIT TO LUSAKA PERHAPS ON OTHER OPIC BUSINESS FOLLOWING MEETING
WHICH AMBASSADOR HAS WITH WOOD MAY 23.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESSMEN, TRUCKING COMPANIES, PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, VISITS, CONTRACTS
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Draft Date: 22 MAY 1974
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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